

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Italian Opera. "Aida." Mile.
Tovazzi.
ROBERTS' THEATRE.—"Chester Wold." Mme. Jannu-
schek.
DIAMOND.—Day and evening: "Cyclorama of Paris by
Night."
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—"Love's Labor Lost."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—"Humpty Dumpty at School."
G. L. Fox.
NIBBIS GARDEN.—At 130 and at 8: "Leatherstocking."
ONYX THEATRE.—Vandeville and Novelty Entertain-
ment.
TONT PARTON'S OPERA HOUSE.—Varieties.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—At 130 and at 8: "Lod
Astray."
WALLACE'S THEATRE.—At 130 and at 8: "Money."

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RANKING AND FINANCIAL—*Ninth Page*—6th column.
RANKING-HOUSES AND BANKERS—*Tenth Page*—8th col-
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BOARD AND ROOMS—*Eleventh Page*—3d column.
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COLUMBIAS.

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New-York Daily Tribune.
FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1874.

TRIPLE SHEET.

It is reported that Mr. Gladstone will no longer take an active part in British Parliamentary proceedings. The Ashantee city of Coomassie surrendered on the 28th of January. There has been severe fighting in Ruseay, Spain; the advantage so far has been with

Japan is spreading. The foreigners are preparing to leave Nagasaki. — It is said that Cardinal Antonelli has called all the bishops to Rome to see the Pope before he dies.

A prayer crusade against Intemperance is to begin at Pittsburgh to-morrow. — In the House of Representatives, on Saturday, the Washington and Point Lookout

The new Brooklyn Tabernacle was dedicated. Bishop Cox, Presidents Robinson and Campbell, and the Rev. Dr. Sunderland occupied metropolitan pulpits. Women interested in the Temperance movement decided to make systematic visitations. The corporation of this Church determined not to lease property

All who desire to deal intelligently with the individual appeals for charity, which are constantly reaching them at their homes and offices, will do well to cut out and preserve

The letter of our Paris correspondent, pub-

claim which the minority of President Mac Mahon seems inclined to make, that the National Assembly has no power to reconsider its course in prolonging the President's term of office for seven years. There is something presumptuous in this claim, to which the

Next to seeing and talking with Castelar, doubtless, is the pleasure of reading what an observant and bright woman has to say about him. And on the third page of *THE TRIBUNE* to-day is printed just such an admirable sketch of the great Spaniard. Our correspondent was less fortunate in her quest for Republicans; the devoted Blinker-guide, philosopher, and friend, as he was—found only gloomers. In the living picture of the man who is Spaniard first and Republican afterward, the reader, however, will find not only entertainment, but much to hope for Spain while Castelar lives.

We give, on our eighth page, some features of the annual report of the United States Coast Survey. Last year's work was fully up to that of its predecessors. Great progress was made in the general triangulation, by which the Survey is gradually fixing the position, not only of every point along the coast, but of all the interior measurements of the United States. Eventually, all maps and all descriptions of real estate boundaries in the country, will be dependent upon the data furnished by the Survey. Errors, varying from two to ten miles in the positions of landmarks, are reported as among the discoveries of last year. The description of the researches in our harbor will be read with interest; it appears from them that while extensive changes may result in consequence of the docks and piers now building, these will, it is hoped, be no injury to the harbor, if the improvements are kept within the limits assigned by the Survey.

On Saturday last Winchester Britton walked into Court with a Grand Jury which had been sitting seven weeks, whose term had been twice extended at his request, which had found important bills against grossly delinquent officials, and whose bills he had neglected to sign, after he knew (his own friends being the witnesses) that he would have but a day or two more in which to act, and coolly announced that the jury had no bills to present, as there was no District-Attorney to sign them. It was a cynical defiance of public opinion, that fully justifies, as perhaps nothing he has done in the past more emphatically indorses, the judgment and the language of the Governor. There will be few henceforth to doubt that the charges that he was in the District-Attorney's office to protect rather than to prosecute the thieves were true, and that the Governor was not incorrect in saying that he has been guilty of "an official malfeasance" which is declared to be a *felony*. It will not now be improper to state that the Commissioners of Charities were introduced before the Grand Jury by Mr. Britton in their own behalf to testify in explanation of their own violations of law, and that still the Grand Jury found cause to order ten indictments against each. Mr. Britton, faithful to the Ring as ruin overtook him, defeated the will of the jury by delaying to sign the indictments ordered, just long enough to destroy them.

Without insisting that Mr. Eastman's plan is the best for attaining rapid transit, we nevertheless hope that the meeting to-night at the Cooper Institute may be largely attended by that class of our citizens who can promptly secure rapid transit if they will. It should be distinctly understood that very few in the present situation of the city's finances

THE MERCHANTS AND THE TREASURY.
All our advices from Washington, both public and private, represent that the wrongs of the importers excite general sympathy in Congress, and that a strong disposition is manifested to do something for their relief. The chaotic condition of the Customs laws is fully realized at the Treasury Department, and successive Secretaries have urged upon the Government the need of a revision and reform. Mr. Richardson, as we showed the other day, took a very decided stand, some years ago, against the constitutionality of a law authorizing the seizure of books and papers, and we do not believe his opinion has since undergone any change. Indeed, from neither the executive nor the legislative branch of the Government ought the merchants to fear any serious opposition to their demands, provided their case can be fairly considered and decided on its merits. Their only enemies are the tribe of special agents, spies, informers, Jaynes, Sanborns, Butlers, whose interest in the continuance of the present system is enormous, and whose power at Washington it would be rash to despise.

Let us remind Congress, moreover, that half-

In the revision of these laws it will be necessary to take into consideration the whole subject of importers' grievances, and it is apparent that a genuine reform will call for changes much more sweeping than the mere straightening out of crooked clauses and adjustment of contradictions. The seizure of books and papers, and the payment of moieties to revenue officers and informers, are twin infamies which the indignation of the community points out for destruction; and when these go, it is probable that the whole system of ascertaining duties on imports will need a careful revision. Secret compromises between merchants and the Custom-house, for the release of invoices under seizure, are a fruitful source of fraud, blackmail, and demoralization, which ought to be crushed at once. Senator Fenton's bill, already passed by the Senate, which limits forfeiture for irregularity, undervaluation, &c., to the goods in respect to which the wrong is committed, instead of allowing the seizing officer to grasp as he now does the entire invoice of which the offending articles may have formed only an inconsiderable part, is so clearly just that we do not see how the House can hesitate to agree to it. Finally, the merchants have a right to insist that when duties upon an importation have once been liquidated and the

II. To contract the volume of notes in circulation. Ever since the rate of discount touched seven per cent, at the beginning of last November, the determination of the Bank to go no further in the direction of inflation has been apparent to those who from week to week have followed the statements of its condition. November 13, 1973, its note circulation was \$908,000,000; but on Feb. 5, 1974, it had

IV. To decrease the amount of capital invested in Government bonds. The importance of reducing the amount of the Bank's loans to the State as a preliminary to resumption is well understood both by the French Government and by the Bank. The Bank is not so insane as to ask for the privilege of advancing more money to the Government in order that it may get more bonds as a security and pretext for expanding its note circulation ; though we know not why bank circulation by the hundreds of millions may not as well be issued against Government bonds in France as in America—except that they have tried it in the former country to their cost. Within the last four months the French Government has redeemed over sixty million dollars of its debt to the Bank of France, and for no other purpose than to facilitate the resumption of payments by the Bank in specie.

ORGANIZED CHARITY.

The saddest and most unquestionable claim to greatness which a city can make lies in its miseries and in the charities which spring up to combat them. The list of charitable institutions which we print this morning is a sufficient proof of the fact that this city stands among the leading capitals of the world in both these respects. The vast aggregation of humanity which has been drawn to this island by its unexampled prosperity necessarily brings with it every variety of wretchedness, and it is greatly to the honor of the citizens of New-York that they have organized with such variety of method and minuteness of detail to meet and relieve this diversified and complex suffering. There is, of course, no city in the world which affords such endless variety of nationality and conditions, and a corresponding diversity will be found among the associations of relief. Every tongue and every faith find their representatives among these organizations. No other city has so vast a foreign population, and consequently none extends so liberal a charity to foreigners. The tendency of the time to subdivision of labor is strikingly exhibited in this directory. Each time of life has its own careful guardians. There are asylums for infants too young to ask for help, and retreats for the aged broken by the battles of life. There are reformatory institutions for young men and women who have fallen through the heedlessness of youth, and sheltering institutions to keep out of temptation those who have not fallen. Different diseases are beginning to have their separate hospitals set apart for them, and special afflictions to find their corresponding treatment and care from special skill and learning.

The Winter is ending and with the opening of Spring it may fairly be expected that much of the suffering incident to this season of general derangement will be alleviated, both by the coming of warmer weather and by the revival of business, which will give industrious poverty a chance for life. But much yet remains to be done, and the highest organizing ability and energy of our best citizens can find no better field of exercise than in so adapting the widely extended machinery of our municipal charities to the complex conditions of our social structure that the next financial crisis, or the next cold Winter, may find us ready for it. By the favor of Providence, this Winter has not added the horrors of cold and famine to the privations which came from the stagnation of business. But we cannot always expect these business interferences of the al-

"AIR STRAIGHTENERS"

Swift, in bitter irony, proposed long ago the killing and eating of Irish babies, both as a way of keeping population down and of furnishing food to the survivors. We want much in these days some Dr. Swift to stick these pins of sharp suggestion into our body politic. Emancipation gave us one of the prettiest examples ever presented for working out to an intelligent people, and thus far we have only scratched our heads at it, like a school-boy blubbering over the Rule of Three. Nobody thought that it would be an easy conundrum to guess, but everybody thought Yankee shrewdness equal to any riddle, and so it might have proved if the Yankee love of the dollar had not intervened; for though *Amer* is strong, *Amer pecunie* is stronger, up to this

We consider the Black people in the late Slave States to be the wards of the nation. So are all ignorant, half-helpless men, women, and children. We do not say anything about Christian duty; we leave that to the pulpits; but it is our business to say something of political duty, and from time to time, as occasion offers, we propose to say it plainly. Occasion does offer to-day in this letter which we have received from Fayette County, Texas. It isn't a novelty, for we get such letters sometimes a dozen in a day. Fayette County, Texas, tells the old story. The Blacks there, children comparatively, are constantly made dupes of by the sharp Whites. One scoundrel has done a thriving business by selling them "Free Papers" at \$10 each. Another speculator furnishes them with a stake-pin with cabalistic figures on it. With this the purchaser is told that he

This case draws which show which way the
 simon of swindling is blowing. Our corre-
 spondent wants us to send a good, honest,
 wide-awake, working man to Texas to start a
 newspaper of the right sort, and promises him
 100,000 cash subscribers. As the people principally
 interested cannot read, this suggestion is
 not so forcible as it otherwise would be.
 Why not try Washington? Why not write to
 Gen. Grant about the "Free Papers"?—to the
 Secretary of State about the "Hair Straight-
 ener"?—to the Secretary of the Treasury
 about the Texas Banking?—to the Secre-
 tary of the Interior about the "Preemption
 Stake"? Why not apply to the Vice-
 President? to certain Senators? to certain
 representatives—B. F. B. for instance? We
 have no reason to believe that he is in either
 the Free Paper, the Preemption Stake, or the
 Hair Straightener speculation, and if early
 application be made to him we think that he
 may be kept out of them; and, should he be
 kept out of them, he will be very eloquent in
 their denunciation. We do not know that he
 ever promised to straighten the hair of the
 entire colored population of the South, but
 we do know that something very like that was
 promised to them by the Administration party
 during the last Presidential election; and it
 owes a debt to its sable supporters which it
 ought to pay, unless it means to repudiate all
 debts whatsoever.

Whether we talk or keep silence, it should be understood that the eternal instinct of the will maintains it in the right direction. I would be useless for us to discuss the probable effect of non-discussion, of silence, or acquiescence, of let-well-enough alone; because these tongue-tournaments, these promiscuous battles, these surging seas of volubility, these well-intentioned follies and misadventures, these well-intentioned follies and misadventures are predestinate. The worst of them is that they discourage sensitive and sensible men and women, and keep them out of the work when their help is the most wanted.

All history teaches us that changes which to the conservative mind seem charged with innumerable pestilential evils frequently prove as wholesome as they were unavoidable. We laugh at that quality of the human intellect which sees the day of judgment in the repeal of a statute; but caution is not of itself bad or undesirable. Until all men are made alike there will be dissentients, although it is creditable to the social man that the dispute is usually about methods. The common instinct of our nature to make the wrong right and the crooked straight is superior to the tools with which we work. The age travels even in its sleep, by night as well as by day, when it thinks itself at rest as well as when it knows that it is moving; nor will the earth cease to revolve upon its axis because women have been placed upon School Committees. We mention this for the benefit of certain gentlemen in Boston who seem to think otherwise.

be both wholesome and salutary. "Eternal life" is the conception of that mysterious conflict which his neighbors have, and their manner of commemorating it, appear to him absurd and belittling enough. But if they did not remember or commemorate it at all! The washer-woman abjures her daily sausage for week that is a poor sacrifice to divine faith, it is true; but it is the highest for her, as her food and the earning of it occupy nine-tenths of her time and thoughts. The pretty partner at a ball will indulge in no gayer louder than a high-tide until Easter is over; Germans and the dresses sent over by the last steamer she turns her back upon. But whether a human being, whose soul and brain are so often given up to the choice between *tulle* and *faille*, or the decision between a shade of *ciel bleu* or *blanc glacier*, whose highest earthly enjoyment consists in whirling through the German with a mirror in her hand and a flag on her head, with numberless other flagged and mirrored swift-legged creatures, is capable of comprehending the God who made her with any but the very smallest glimpse of intelligence, is a question not for us to answer. Every soul says the old proverb, measures its own Deity, and we perhaps should be thankful if to such as these, in their perfumed ball-room atmosphere, any glimpse of the infinite truth and life which underlies the world should be permitted to penetrate through Lenten forms, even though these should be hampered by scent.

The Pioneer Club (colored) in Alexandria, Va., being lately about to give a ball, announced on the programme that the entertainment would be "strictly moral until 13 o'clock." This odd announcement having caused some comment, the committee of arrangements have written to the newspapers to explain. "Strictly moral" means premonishing, which even "members of churches may engage in." After that the light fantastic, though "no inferior characters will be allowed inside the building."

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The Illinois Senate has passed a bill making drunkenness of railway officers while on duty a criminal offense. It is already a criminal offense but we suppose the new law provides special penalties.